

to former claims 9 through 12, and claims 26 through 32 correspond, respectively, to former claims 14 through 20, with, of course, amendments to address the matters raised by the examiner.

Regarding the rejection of claims 5 -- 20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, the cancellation of claims 5 through 8 has removed the issues raised regarding them. The replacement of claims 9 through 12 and 14 through 32 has been to deal with the various matters raised by the examiner and have proper antecedent basis.

The examiner has rejected claims 5 -- 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Stothers U.S. Patent Number 6,098,425 or Yamazaki U.S. Patent Number 4,549,889 in view of Doi U.S. Patent Number 5,565,070. Reconsideration is requested.

Yamazaki describes, a process for refining a reactive gas for use in forming a semiconductor layer. Such a process is in a totally different field from that of the present invention, which involves evaporating a volatile solvent in a container within a sealed environment containing an inert gas, particularly where the container is mounted in a vortex evaporator, as claimed in Claim 27. There is absolutely no reason why the ordinary skilled worker in centrifugal evaporation would ever research such a field and if they were to, apply the teaching of Yamazaki.

Stothers is likewise in a different field, being concerned with separating impurities such as propane and CO<sub>2</sub> from natural gas. No reference can be found of evaporating a solvent in an inert gas environment, as herein claimed. Again, there is no reason why the ordinary skilled

worker in the field of centrifugal evaporation would research this field and were they to do so, arrive at the invention as claimed by using the teaching of Stothers.

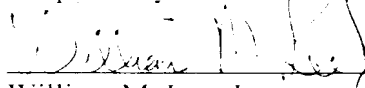
Doi discloses a suction pipe whose end 5 is close to the surface of a solvent 29. This feature is not relevant to Claims 22 onwards. Therefore, combination of the teachings of Doi with either Yamazaki or Stothers would add nothing to those references, at least insofar as the claimed invention as set forth in claims 22 through 32.

Therefore, in view of the claim amendments and comments set forth above, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and the examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

As this response is being sent during the fourth month following the examiner's office action, an appropriate petition for extension of time is also submitted herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.  
Registration No. 26,935  
Barnes & Thornburg  
P.O. Box 2786  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786  
(312) 368-6620  
(312) 368-0034 (fax)